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# Our Voice

The spare change newspaper

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▲ Jerry Emile Whitford & Raddy posed for Pieter De Vos Jr.  
More portraits on the back. PHOTO • PIETER DEVOS JR.

## Free for all in the park

▼ A spring Saturday where school students held  
a barbecue for the inner city ■ Page 4

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## NEWS • of the World

### Backing up the melons to the market

Following outrage at the suggestion in this column that women are less adept at passing their driving tests first time than men, we felt it was time to upset the Italian community by reporting on a Gallup survey which found that Italians are by far the worst drivers in Europe. The survey was unanimous in its condemnation of Latin motorists, with even those Italians questioned admitting they were absolutely lethal behind the wheel. It is a conclusion amply demonstrated by Mr Fabio Gazzoni, 70, of Manduria, who drove backwards for 40 miles

in order to deliver melons to a market. Mr Gazzoni had somehow lost his way in a maze of back roads, ending up 40 miles from his intended destination. Being, by his own admission, "shit at U-turns", he decided the easiest way to get where he needed was by going backwards, proceeding thus, at a steady 40 mph, for the next hour, leaving a trail of havoc in his wake until he was eventually stopped by police. "I pay my tax," said the fruitcake farmer. "How I use the road is my business." ♦

### In the soapy soup with frothy pants

More tales from the twilight world of international smuggling. In Colombia, officials at Bogota airport stopped a woman with "the most enormous breasts in the cosmos", only to discover they were actually bags of pure heroin. In Japan, meanwhile, a man was stopped at Narita airport wearing a suit made of soap. Mr Yasujiro Hashimoto had made the garment to circumvent restrictions on the importation of cosmetic products. "I wanted to bring 400 bars of seaweed soap home from China," he explained, "so I melted them down and made a

highly fashionable double-breasted suit." Although the brittle nature of the garment forced its wearer to spend the entire flight standing in the plane toilet, all went well until they landed in Japan. "We were walking towards the terminal when it started to rain," Mr Hashimoto explained. "I tried to go faster but then my trousers went all frothy and collapsed around me." He was arrested by customs officials, but has no regrets. "How many other suits clean your armpits while you wear them?" he asked defiantly. ♦

*Our warmest hello to all our brothers  
and sisters across the nation*

A message from  
Chief Abraham Hunter,  
Members & Elders of

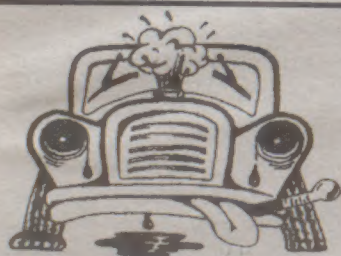


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### Aiding and abetting at the age of four

Forget burglar alarms and hi-tech surveillance equipment, the most effective weapon in the fight against crime is children. Witness events in Birmingham, where police searching a house for a suspected thief were politely informed by the man's three-year-old sister that "he's in the wardrobe, under the duvet". There are exceptions to the rule, however, one being Russell Brown, four, who actively encouraged two burglars to clean out his parents' home in Coventry. Russell had got up in the middle of the night to use the lavatory when he discovered the men

creeping about downstairs. Far from alerting his sleeping parents, however, he engaged in a friendly game of eye-spy before helpfully pointing out where his father kept the mortgage money stashed in a fake Ming vase on the mantelpiece. He then took the bewildered burglars down to the garden shed to collect his father's power drill before helping them load their car and waving them off into the night. He has since expressed a desire to be an astronaut when he grows up. ♦

### Bungled up bungees can be hair-raising

Few things can be more grotesque than doing a bungee jump, as discovered by charity jumper Ian Harmer, 35, of Oswestry, Shropshire, all of whose hair dropped out on the way down. "He stopped at the end of the cord," explained one eyewitness, "but his scalp didn't." Still more upsetting was the experience of Marvin Butter, who spent two days hanging nude at the end of a bungee rope after a drunken prank went horribly wrong. Mr Butter, 26, of California, had been drinking with a close friend and bungee professional Marty Wip when they decided to jump off a remote local bridge.

He duly stripped naked, harnessed himself up, and with a cry of "Buttcks away!" leapt into space. Unbeknown to him, his friend chose that moment to pass out, waking up three hours later and returning home with no recollection of the night's events. "I shouted, OK, Marty, pull me up!" explained a traumatised Mr Butter. "But when I heard him snoring I knew I was in trouble." He was eventually rescued by hikers 48 hours later. "The worst thing was going to the toilet upside down," he admitted. "It was extremely messy." ♦

Above articles compiled by Paul Sussman in *The Big Issue*, London England's street-sold magazine.

2

OUR  
VOICE  
MAY 15  
1996



## VENDOR • Profile

# Linda Dumont

BY MICHAEL WALTERS

Linda started selling **Our Voice** when the paper came to Edmonton from Vancouver in 1994. She needed to raise extra money to help finance a soup kitchen that she had been struggling to keep going. Now she has been one of the longest, most successful sellers of the paper, and is a regular contributor too.

Linda came to Edmonton in 1989 to work in an inner city street ministry. In 1991 she was offered the use of Exeo, an inner city rooming house, for her services and soup kitchen.

That July, Exeo burned down, but she continued in a back alley until it snowed. Her ministry, her soul- and brain-child, is now known as the Christ Love Ministry Association.

"People used to come with their shopping carts full of all their belongings. It was wild. You would see all these carts lined up while people took in the service and stayed for the soup we served after."

When winter came she rented a suite with a small settlement she received from the fire. Eventually donations started coming in to help pay some of the costs.

As time went on the ministry was able to serve soup and sandwiches five nights a week. Unfortunately though, Linda ran into money problems again, and found it impossible to carry on with so much work so she moved the ministry to share space with the Mission.

Linda is working now as an outreach worker on a Alberta Community Employment (ACE) grant through the Mustard Seed Church. She spends two days a week working in the church's food bank. The rest of the time is spent visiting the sick in the hospital or in their homes, as well as carrying out her ministry.

On the weekends Linda is the **Our Voice** distributor for the south side of Edmonton. She distributes and sells the paper from the Old Strathcona Farmers' Market.

and comic strips published. "I would like to get to the point where I can support my family through writing and publishing. It's hard though. All my life people would tell me that art is not a practical profession."

Linda grew up on a farm in Sunnybrook. From there she went to University and took three years of Fine Arts. She then transferred into Education, and received her Bachelor of Education Degree in 1986. She worked as a substitute teacher for four years until she began doing what she's doing now. As noble as the teaching profession can be, Linda doesn't wish to return to it.

"To become a teacher again would be the end of my life as it is now. I've worked hard to become what I am. I would be selling out if I became a teacher. I've sold out my whole life and I can't do it anymore."

Linda was married to an abusive husband for twenty years. She managed to escape the situation and begin her life again. Ironically, however, her divorce is what now prevents her from becoming ordained as a minister. She has remarried and lives with her husband and her eleven-year-old daughter.

"My life is finally starting to go the way I want it to go. The reasons I do the things I do are because of what I believe. Just like everybody else I guess."

Linda has fought through a life of pains and battles, and stands today as an inspiration to everyone who

knows her. Her sensitivity and love for people is a unique beauty.

"The toughest battle we ever fight in this life is to be ourselves."

But for Linda it seems to be a battle she's winning, and a lot of people are thankful for that. ♦



"I still enjoy selling the paper. It's the only job I know where, if my car is running out of gas, I can stop and make some quick money to fill it up."

Linda has been writing for the **Our Voice** newspaper since its beginning. She says she has been writing since she was a child. She's had many articles, stories, poems,

### The people who bring you **OUR VOICE**

This newspaper exists because of the efforts of the people who sell it to you on the street, the vendors. For our vendors **OUR VOICE** is a job that helps them to be independent and self-employed. Each issue we highlight one of our vendors in Vendor Profile to let you know a little bit about the people who bring you **OUR VOICE**. ♦

**OUR VOICE**  
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- I will be sober at all times while working
- I will be polite to all members of the public
- I will vend only in areas that are authorized

All **OUR VOICE** vendors are required to wear an ID badge (contents above) and abide by a code of conduct. If you have any comments about our vendors, phone our distribution manager in your city (see page 5).



# Vendors are saying...

## Ashamed of begging

BY AMEY CARRIER

I have been selling *Our Voice* newspaper since June 29, 1994. The one thing that is consistent with the people that I encounter are the questions: Isn't it too cold to work out here?

At -25, it is too cold to work outside anywhere, but this is where I work and necessity dictates my need to work. So I dress real warm and go to work.

Why don't you get a real job?

This is a real job. I invest in a product with the hope that my earnings cover my expenses and still leave me enough for my needs, rent, food, transportation, etc.

Aren't you ashamed of begging?

I don't beg! I offer a product for sale. I don't even set a price. I let the customer pay what they want, from pennies to loonies, and I'm grateful for every penny. I always say thank you and wish everyone a good day. My thanks and wishes are always sincere.

For me *Our Voice* is the final step. I have an education. In the past I owned two businesses, which I created and established. For health reasons I am very

limited in what I can do. Vending the newspaper is a Godsend for me. It has given me the opportunity to buy some of my dignity back.

I take my work seriously and work regular, so that my customers and well-wishers know I care about what I do. I have worked at the same location for over 18 months, on the sidewalk in front of Rogers Video on 17th Ave. SW. in Calgary. I'm very proud of my job, and the way I represent myself and the newspaper. I see a lot of people during my day. Some I remember, some I don't, but I never forget anyone through thoughtlessness or uncaring. I care for every person I see. The ones who say rude things or pretend they didn't hear or see me, I care harder for. They need someone to care for them. Their pain must be overwhelming to strike out in such a way.

As long as God allows, I'll be at my location selling *Our Voice* newspapers. I believe in the idea, content and purpose of the newspaper. I will work with them as long as I can. This is one create-a-job program that works. Help support those that want to support themselves.

This vendor wishes to thank all the people who buy, advertise in, or otherwise support our newspaper.

## Insults

BY SUSAN KERER

Insults must be studied in order to overcome them.

There are four main types of insults. They are:

The friendly insult – these are not meant to hurt, you can ignore them.

The ridiculous insult – these state an impossibility which, if pointed out and emphasized, can defuse an argument. For example, calling a skinny person 'fat', as in 'You're a fat b....d.'

The serious insult – This can be deadly if you let it be. If you turn away from it, and not let it be worth your time and trouble, you're better off. Just walk away.

The legal insult – Slander or libel. That's where the courts come in.

When you know how to handle each of these insults you're better off. Why degrade yourself by trading insults. Act according to the insult and deal with it.

## Vendor runs into prejudice

BY LINDA DUMONT

Unfortunately, prejudice never sees the individual, only the masses, natives, the poor, *Our Voice* vendors, welfare recipients. I have worked as a vendor at the Strathcona Farmers' Market for over two years. Suddenly I was no longer welcome. I was simply told some vendors were seen drinking in the washroom, and that if I did not leave the manager would call the police to have me removed.

This was a man whom I'd seen every week. I mistakenly believed he saw me as an individual, but to him I was just an *Our Voice* vendor, indistinguishable from the vendors drinking in the washroom, a threat to be removed by force if necessary. ♦

## HOMELESS AWARENESS WEEK IN CALGARY

A number of helping agencies in Calgary are sponsoring the 2nd Annual Homeless Awareness Week to promote compassion for the children, women and men who find themselves living on the city's streets.

### MONDAY • MAY 27

■ CKIK Kick Off

■ 11 am Opening Ceremonies, Knox United Church, 7th Avenue and 4th St. SW.

■ Open Space Conference: "Homelessness: a Community Issue" May 27 & 28, Knox United Church 9 am to 4 pm. Register with The Junior League, 244-5355 by May 15.

### WEDNESDAY • MAY 29

■ Film Day with Panel Discussion at the Public Library Downtown at 1 pm.

### THURSDAY • MAY 30

■ Agency Luncheon, call Mustard Seed Ministry, 269-1319.

### FRIDAY • MAY 31

■ "Meet The Street" Street-a-Thon, Teams go into character for a street night, to understand what it's like to be a street person. Starts at 7 pm and runs to Breakfast at 7 am. Prizes include a 3 day weekend for 2 at Fisherman's Wharf in San Francisco and others... At the Mustard Seed Ministry 102-11th Ave. SE. Registration: \$10. Call Diana at 269-1319.

### SATURDAY • JUNE 1

■ Picnic with Memorial and Social Concert at Olympic Plaza, from 11:30 am to 3 pm. With the Heebie-Jeebies, buskers, face painters and other performers. Including a memorial service to celebrate the lives of the people from the street whom we've lost over the past year. For more information call Susanna Koczur at 232-6777. ♦

# Free for all in the park

BY SHELLY KNAPP

A free-for-all with free hamburgers and a lot of smiles was put on by students from St. Kevin Junior High in Edmonton recently. The barbecue was a project for the students of the Ukrainian Catholic Junior High School.

"Often what schools and communities do is send money to far off countries. We thought it would be better used right here," said principal Marion Hrynew.

The students brought in money, the teachers matched the amount and enough was raised to feed 800 people.

Forty students worked the barbecue, cooking, distributing tickets, serving and keeping the area clean. Stanley Chan even collected money from the teachers that day to buy cream puffs for desert.

"It was fun," said student Amanda Whelan. "I wanted to help out people that were less fortunate." ♦



▲ Junior high kids ran the grill to feed people in the park.



## Jumping the hoops for a roof over her daughter's head

I have spent the last week trying to put my life experience and three years college to use, trying to understand exactly what makes the Department of Family and Social Services tick. At the end of the week I am left wondering if analyzing a wall of hieroglyphics or dismantling Einstein's theory of relativity wouldn't have been an easier task.

First, their name. True they may be a 'department', but they are definitely the furthest thing from 'social' or 'service'. As a matter of fact, I highly doubt any of their frontline staff could even define the word "service."

I have worried about the day I might be forced to apply for assistance to support my young daughter, long before journalism school let out in April. Before the ink was dry on my last final exam I had my resumé prepared and had bugged everyone I knew for job leads. Now, for all of you skeptics, let me begin by sharing some personal information while shattering a few of those welfare myths about who applies for social assistance.

First and foremost: I am not on drugs or nicotine, nor do I regularly partake of alcohol. I don't abuse my daughter, nor would I consider having another child to add an extra \$100 to my welfare cheque each month.

The word 'lazy' is not an adverb normally associated with me, although my mother may argue about that, remembering my teenage years. I don't go to bingo, play the VLTs, or party daily, unless Sesame Street reruns or grocery store lineups count. I can read, write and, on a good day, even add numbers.

And here is the real kicker, like most social assistance recipients, I would prefer to be working instead of jumping through a million hoops for some measly handout from the government.

But, I have to make May rent. So I called up the social assistance number and listened to a five minute monologue detailing the application procedure. After frantically scribbling several pages of notes, this is the wisdom I have gleaned:

1. Listen to the very lengthy phone message and try not to grow roots while doing it.
2. Go to a meeting to learn how to fill out an application form. Even if you can accomplish the formidable task of spelling your own name, you must attend this training

session to win the lucky opportunity to line up outside the office. (See number 5)

3. Run around and collect all of the information required in the application process. Even if you have been on assistance before and are still on file, scour the earth and hunt it all up again; after all you have nothing better to do, do you? You've got to have it all: birth certificates, photo ID, a rent contract, a copy of income tax, Alberta Health Care cards and, if you own your own business, there's even more, your company books, pay stubs, childcare costs, proof of your last source of income... The award for the silliest must be the requirement of a recent

instant teller slip with a current account balance. You can't have more than \$50 in your account to qualify for assistance. Of course one could simply withdraw the money and then redeposit it after getting the slip. But hey, at least the government can look like they are really stamping out that astronomically high welfare fraud rate of 3 per cent.

4. Go to your local social services office and get in line early, because it is first come, first served. Now where else could you enjoy the pleasure of dragging a three year-old child out of bed at six in the a.m. to stand in line to try and get an appointment with an intake worker? In case you are wondering, the same intake system exists all winter too.
5. Once you enter the hallowed halls of the Southside Edmonton office, be prepared to hurry up and wait some more to see an intake worker. Expect the usual interrogation, judgments, and condemnation from an overloaded worker about why you require assistance. Maybe the bare cupboards and eviction notice aren't reason enough.
6. Wait some more for your cheque to be mailed and, if you are really fortunate, a referral to the government's work for welfare or life skills training program. If your rent is late and the landlord angry, simply offer the department's explanation that the money will be coming "sometime." If I don't laugh at this insanity, I will have to cry.

And all of this from an agency dedicated to helping me. Lucky me. Lucky us. ♦

FIONA MCNAIR

## Our Voice

The spare change newspaper

### Word from the streets, new column

Some students face some tougher challenges... and **Penelope Timleck's** story about determined young people getting an education in spite of trying times is an inspiring one. Penelope's story and photos from an inner city school are the centre spread feature this issue.

**Our Voice** is inaugurating a JOBS column, where vendors and other people looking for work can advertise their availability in the paper. We will be publishing success stories, about people who DO get jobs, whenever we can. We're also adding **Word on the streets** a place for **Our Voice** vendors to have their say. This issue **Amey Carrier**, **Susan Kerr**, and **Linda Dumont** speak out.

We haven't received a lot of mail for our letters column lately. If you've got something to say, we'd be happy to read it, and publish it.

Paying the rent is a harsh necessity, and when writer **Fiona McNair** didn't get a job right away she did what she had to to keep a roof over her daughter's head. See the editorial column on this page for the story.

Welcome back to trusty, plucky **Sparky** and his adventures on page 10. Movie Reviewer **Deanna Douglas** on page 9 has something a little different this month, two new films from Western Canada that are on at Edmonton's Global Visions film festival. Also at the Festival, Photographer **Pieter De Vos** is mounting a great exhibit of black and white photos from the streets. There's a taste of his work on the back page.

**Michael Walters**, who handles distribution and sales of the paper to vendors in Edmonton, wrote the Vendor Profile on **Linda Dumont**, who is one of the original Edmonton sellers, and a major contributor of stories and art to the paper.

**WANTED: USED WORKING CAMERAS:** Some **Our Voice** contributors need working cameras to use to further their careers as freelance writers. Please call the editor or one of the Distribution offices listed below if you can donate a useful camera. Thank you.

**WRITERS, CROSSWORDERS...** We're looking for a good short story to serialize over several issues, must be a page turner. Crossword creators...make us some for the inside back cover. Call me for more information. ♦

KEITH WILEY

5

OUR  
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MAY 15  
1996

**Our Voice**  
The spare change newspaper

MAY 15 1996 • VOLUME 3 • NUMBER 7

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**OUR VOICE** is published to provide an income opportunity for economically marginalized people in our society while communicating about their issues to the public.

For advertising rates and information, please contact Steve Rodda of SMRT Consulting at 944-1466

**OUR VOICE** welcomes your contribution. Letters sent to the editor are assumed to be for publication, unless otherwise indicated. **OUR VOICE** welcomes written submissions, particularly those on IBM or Mac compatible computer disk, cartoons, photographs or artwork. **OUR VOICE** cannot accept responsibility

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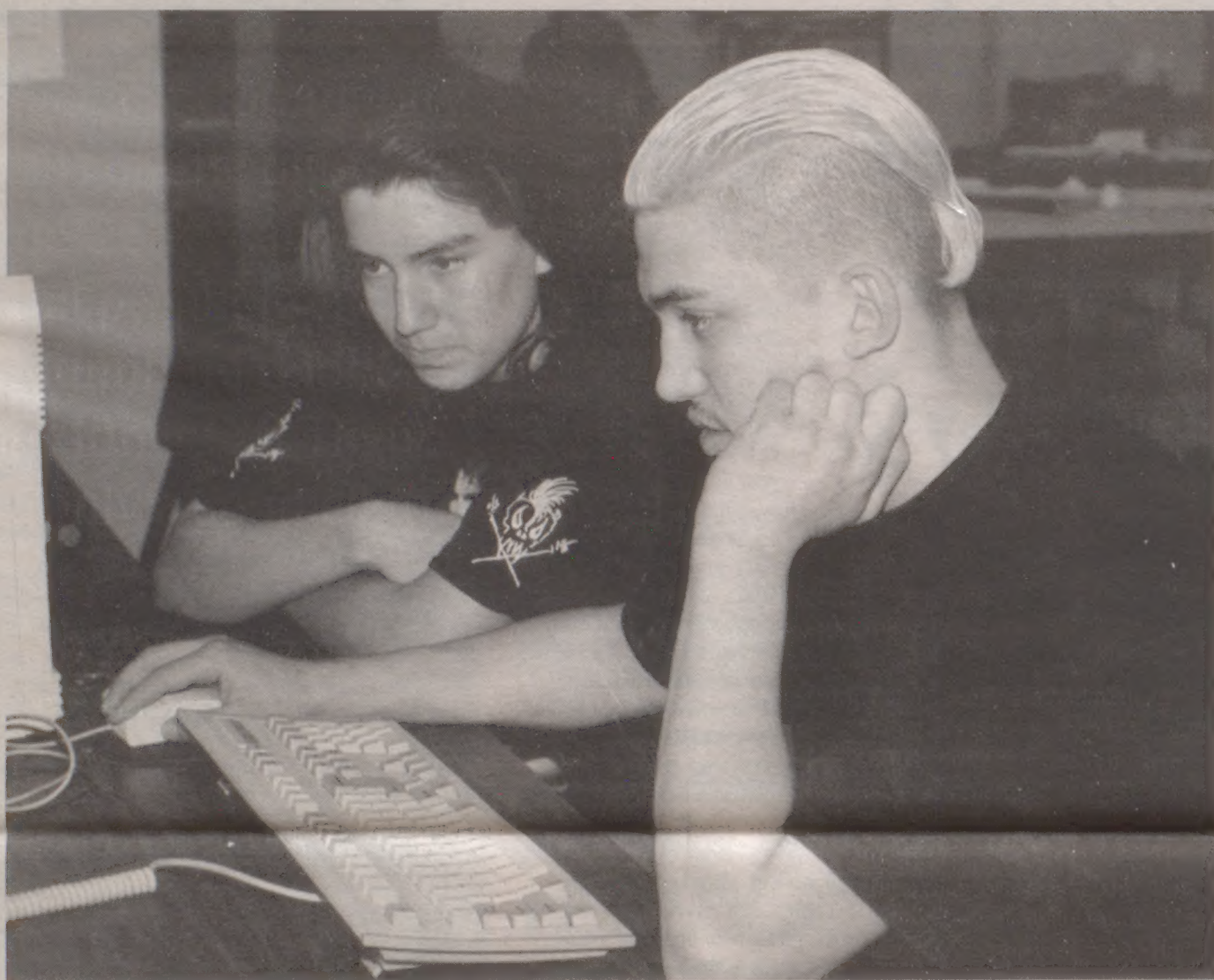
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# Another chance at school;

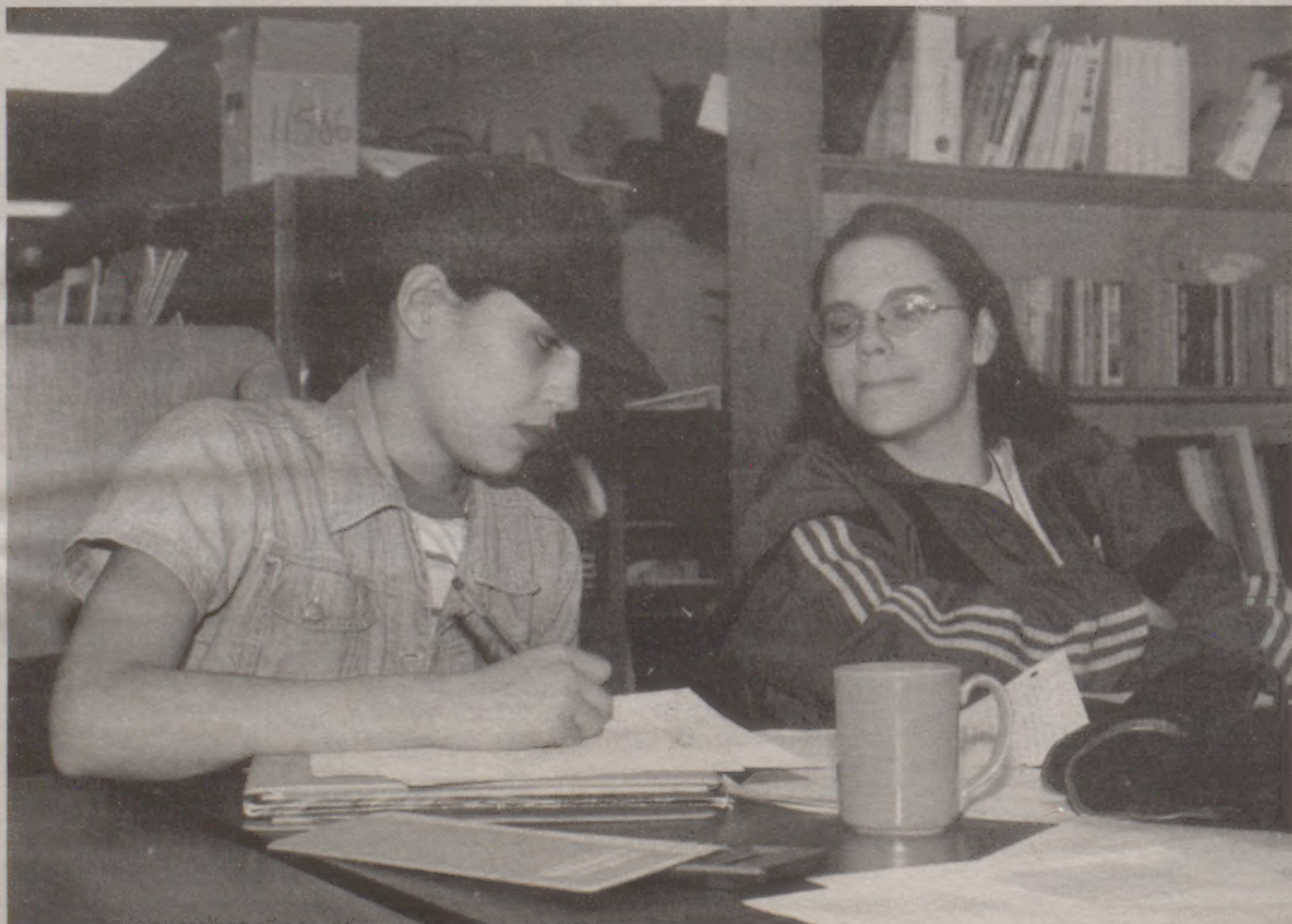
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OUR  
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MAY 15  
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▲ Aaron Larocque (17), Tim Clothier (19).

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▲ Monique Skjerven (15), Justine Pahtayken (18).

B Y P E N E L

**T**he Boyle Street Co-op Centre sits on the corner between 95 Street and 96 Street, a small peephole in the yellow aluminum door. No sign says it's Inner City School, there's only a door ring to get inside.

Inside the school though, it is clean and open, and 40 students, aged 15 to 24, are all engaged in school work or conversations.

"Inner City has helped me incredibly, unbelievably," says Lianne Ashley, 16, who has been enrolled there for over a year.

Ashley had attended other high schools in Edmonton before then. She says she couldn't handle mainstream school because there were too many distractions.

"I'd get into bad stuff. A lot of drugs, a lot of drinking, a lot of partying and not going to school."

"Here we get a lot of respect. All of the decisions that are made are made through us," she says.

For the majority of the students, Inner City is a second chance at an education.

Ashley says many of the students have histories of drugs and crime. Some have homeless homes or have been involved in prostitution.

"Jail is a part of life around here."

"We don't talk about drinking or drugs like kids would in school. It's accepted that everyone here is recovering from abuse or addiction, and we don't do those things any more."

The school opened in 1993 under the guidance of Joe Cloutier, a volunteer at the Boyle Street Co-op, began an inner-city kids which was really popular. But while dedicated to the group, he says they still had other problems.

Many students were homeless and attended school unequipped to meet their needs.

"Most of the students here have no parental or family support. They have generally spent time in street culture," says Ashley.

The drama group eventually became the Drama House. Members of the group living there began taking courses to complete their high school.

Lance Marty, 19, is one of the school's original students.



▲ Joe Cloutier, Alexina D.



# Another chance at life

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Cloutier, principal, Sasia Zwaan, youth worker and  
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lived in the Drama House when it was first set up.

Before he came to the Drama House, Marty says his life was going nowhere.

"If it wasn't for Joe, I'd be dead. He picked me up off the street and gave me a home. He deserves to be on a pedestal."

Out of the Drama House rose the need for a school that did meet the kids' needs. "One day, someone said we should start up a school. So we did," says Cloutier, who is now the principal of Inner City.

But Inner City High School isn't for everyone. The school doesn't have the structure some people need.

"Some people can't handle the freedom. But they just weed themselves out," says Ashley.

Steven Braaksma, 20, is a former student who attended Inner City for six months before he dropped out.

"I didn't have anyone constantly telling me what I had to do.

I thought it would be a really good opportunity to work, but there was no structure."

He says most of the students were more dedicated at Inner City because they really wanted an education, but he couldn't motivate himself. He now attends Victoria Composite High School, and says he is doing much better there.

Saskia Zwaan, the youth worker at Inner City, says the lack of rigid structure shouldn't affect the students later in life. "The students still have to be there at the same time every day, and they have classes just like in other schools, but the setting is just not as tight."

"They learn how to structure themselves, which they couldn't do in a regular high school."

Last year, Inner City came under the jurisdiction of the Edmonton Catholic School Board to get the funding the school needed to stay open.

The school offers all the high school core subjects, as well as psychology, sociology and gym. Guitar, photography and video classes are also offered.

The students also prepare a hot lunch each day and are responsible for washing the dishes and keeping the kitchen clean.

Each day the students have a "circle time", when they sit down and discuss the day's events and any problems they have.

Every week a new facilitator is chosen who calls circle time, takes attendance and presents most of the issues, such as cleanliness of the school and smoking policies.

Tim Clothier, 17, who has attended the school for almost three years, says the school and the drama group have given him good experience and focus in his life and career goals.

"I'm doing work now instead of sitting around staring at a wall. I'm happy here." ♦



▲ "Circle time"

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This newspaper exists to help these people and in this column we're going to attempt to assist by giving vendors a chance to publish their resumés in the hopes that employers will see them here and consider hiring them.

### Tom Hind

Tom Hind is an experienced freelance writer and published poet with a graduate degree who lives in the inner city

partly by choice and partly because medical conditions, including arthritis, make it hard for him to work full-time. Tom isn't a vendor, but a regular contributor to *Our Voice*. Tom is looking for editing jobs or ghostwriting assignments. He has 25 years of experience writing. Tom also has English Second Language and English tutoring experience and is willing to provide these services. He can provide references. Tom can be reached through the Edmonton *Our Voice* office at 423-2285.



▲ Matt Laperle

### Matt

Matt has been selling *Our Voice* for two months, but has already impressed people with his reliability and pleasant manner. He is looking for full-time work since he was laid off 8

months ago from his job with a catering company. Matt has a gourmet chef certificate from NAIT and has done demolition work for a construction company, landscaping and roofing in the past. He is willing to work week-ends and shifts but he needs

to be able to get to work using public transportation. Matt can be reached at 471-6371.

### Guy

Guy is a good employee, 28 years old, looking for permanent employment, stability and room for advancement with a good employer. He has done

many types of work, including drywall, painting, roofing, lawn maintenance, and telemarketing. He has good references and can start working immediately.

Call the Edmonton *Our Voice* office,

423-2285, to reach Guy.

These excellent potential employees can all be reached through the Edmonton or Calgary *Our Voice* offices. ♦



▲ Guy Bonin

## Gwen randall-young ... the gentle voice of change

Gwen Randall-Young is a psychotherapist who bridges the worlds of self and spirit, bodymind and soul.

An inspiring and dynamic speaker, she has presented seminars on a variety of topics including *Soul Healing* at the 3rd World Congress of Medical Acupuncture and Natural Medicine (1995). In the summer of 1996, Gwen will be presenting at the 54th Annual Convention of the International Council of Psychologists in Banff, Alberta. She is also a popular columnist for the newspaper "Strathcona County This Week". Her weekly column entitled "Psychology for Living" will also be appearing in other newspapers throughout Canada and the U.S. Her unique way of healing, her art of encouraging others to blossom into the wholeness and uniqueness of their being, continues to dramatically change the lives of many.



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## MOVIE • Review

# Challenging movie fare at Global Visions Festival in Edmonton

BY DEANNA DOUGLAS

**"Letters from Brazil"** and **"Poisoning Paradise – A Native View of the Swan Hills Waste Treatment Centre"** are two documentaries from Western Canadian film makers that are on at this year's Global Visions Festival. In keeping with the Festival's tradition of inspiring and provocative film, both of these films are reminders of the challenges of surviving on our shrinking planet.

"Letters from Brazil", produced by sisters Felicity and Maxine Gerwing, traces the story of a man who devotes all of the time, energy, and money available to him to work for the cause of the underprivileged in Brazil. Alphonse Gerwing, their uncle, spent his early life as a teacher in a

Benedictine monastery. For the last 16 years he has divided his time between two extremes; that of his cold and wealthy native province of Saskatchewan, and the warm, beautiful, and impoverished region of northeastern Brazil.

His story is a truly inspirational tale of how one ordinary, middle class Canadian can make a very real difference among a pocket of suffering people half way across the world. His basic philosophy focuses on the importance of empowering an oppressed people, thus allowing them to see a role for themselves in shaping their future.

The film gets off to a slow start, but it is well worth watching. The beauty of the countryside is contrasted with the suffering of the vast majority of its human occupants. There's a harsh contrast between the utter subjugation of the native peoples, and the the relatively small sacrifices required of us as Canadians to help them improve their lives. These images shine through

the rough edges inevitable in an early artistic effort to inspire the audience on to serious personal reflection. How do we, as Canadians, contribute to the oppression of the millions of people stuck at the bottom of humanity's power structure – and what can we contribute to their liberation?

The second film, **"Poisoning Paradise"**, was produced by Barb Allard and Kelly Reinhardt. Largely filmed on site, it depicts the struggle of the northern native people with the provincial

government and its corporate partners over the emissions from the Swan Hills Waste Treatment Centre. We hear from the native peoples who are fighting back against what they see as a cycle of environmental degradation.

The focus is on Jim Badger, a

First Nations Chief spearheading the fight to protect our northern forests against the chemicals raining down from the Waste Treatment Centre. His band and their lawyers have put in countless hours to prove the detrimental effects of the Swan Hills plant in a natural habitat.

Although Badger is clearly disenchanted with the public hearing system, which his lawyer describes as nothing but a public relations effort, hope for the future is evident in their statements in the final minutes. Their continued attempts to provide a holistic perspective on the current situation cannot help but gain respect.

Quite a film, with a global perspective on our own backyard.

The 16th annual Global Visions Festival runs June 1 to 9 at Edmonton's Princess Theatre. For more information on films and other events, call 439-8744. ♦



▲ Harsh view of life in Northeastern Brazil in new film.

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# Sparky

BY SPARKY COY

## On the Internet & adultery

10

I was surfing the net the other day when I thought of my friend Z. I haven't been utilizing the Internet for long, actually. My friend Zachary Zedelfer, who calls himself simply "Z" (not zed, but zee), has been an Internet enthusiast for many years now. About six months ago, he invited me over for a little "surfing," as he called it.

The experience was fascinating. First, he took me to a "Braveheart" page. This page is dedicated to the film "Braveheart," the big Oscar winner with Mel Gibson. It is a gallery of pictures and reviews and comments. Now, this web site isn't sponsored or created by the movie studio that produced the film; the "Braveheart" page was created by a Mel Gibson fanatic. A fan run amok over the phone lines. A cyber-stalker.

Next, he took me over to the Ultimate Band List, an amazing database of nearly every musician that's ever played a note over the radio. One can collect tons of lyrics, chords, and trivia. The Kurt Cobain listing must house thousands of files by many of his fans. More cyber-stalking.

We spent the afternoon, evening, late night, early morning, late morning and early afternoon discovering information on flowers, trucks, atoms,

a university student named Tyler, and the earth itself. I got home over twenty four hours after I had first gone to visit Z. What a ride...

I mention Z now because of a problem he is having. His marriage is breaking up because of a MacAffair he's been having with a computer freak in Malaysia. Not only that, but Z has actually been having sex with this woman on a private "chat" line. Apparently they type lewd messages back and forth to each other.

"Z," I say to him. "how do you type? And how can you cheat on your wife like that?" "Sparky," he says back, "it's not cheating. We're not even in the same hemisphere." "But still," I counter. "it is rather ... intimate." He's convinced he's doing the right thing, however. Weird old Z, he always puts technology first.

Speaking of weird, I ran into my old friend Kaz the other day. You may remember Kaz. He's a real estate developer who occasionally tries to solve society's problems. His latest one is the homeless.

"Sparky," he says, "the answer to the homeless problem is ... free cigarettes. That's right. The government will give all of its down and outs free smokes. Hey, the homeless would like it and then they'd die faster. Voila." Weird old Kaz. ♦

## RECRUITMENT DRIVE FOR FOSTER PARENTS CULTURALLY-SENSITIVE AND SAFE NATIVE HOMES FOR URBAN NATIVE CHILDREN NEEDED

The Children's Tipi Program was established in November, 1992, to help preserve Aboriginal families by providing services intended to minimize the increasing number of children being taken into care by the Province of Alberta (Child Welfare).

We are now recruiting, training and assessing Native persons interested in becoming long-term foster parents to Native Children. As well, we continue to recruit and train short-term emergency caregivers (Safe-Home Providers and In-Home Support Workers).

If you are interested in becoming a caregiver in the Children's Tipi Program or a Foster Parent in the Foster Care program, please contact Faye or Melvina at (403) 777-2263 or by mail at

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- Understanding and acceptance of Aboriginal cultural values, traditions, and beliefs
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- Commitment to attend and complete the required training
- Ability to meet program standards for caregivers and foster parents
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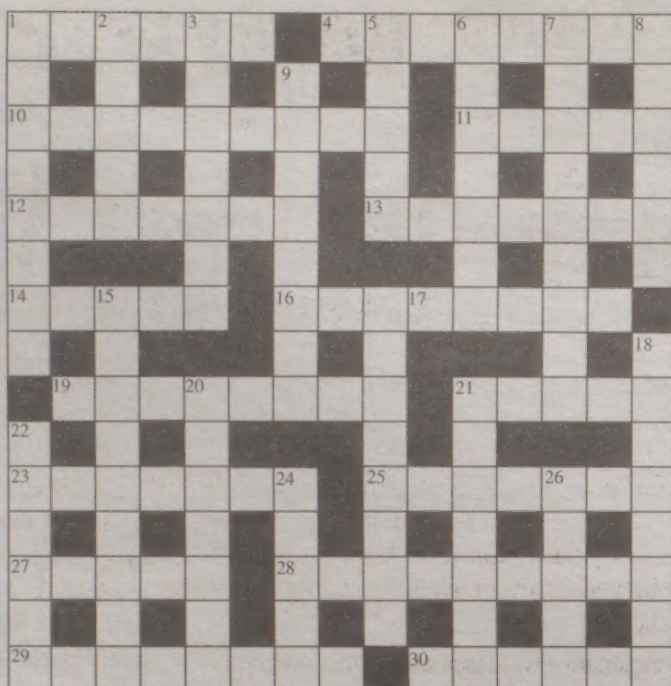


# CROSSWORD • Puzzle 31

## ACROSS

- 1 Bing, morello, maraschino (6)
- 4 Treated with great importance (8)
- 10 Mass of falling or fallen rock (4,5)
- 11 Stares open-mouthed (5)
- 12 Enclosed area for skating (3,4)
- 13 In that respect (7)
- 14 With (5)
- 16 Live-wire blue (8)
- 19 Projecting column supporting a wall (8)
- 21 African tribe that drinks cattle blood (5)
- 23 Songbird: scarlet \_\_\_\_\_ (7)
- 25 Small flute (7)
- 27 Cheapskate (5)
- 28 Workability (9)
- 29 Stripping the covering from (8)
- 30 An ambassador (6)

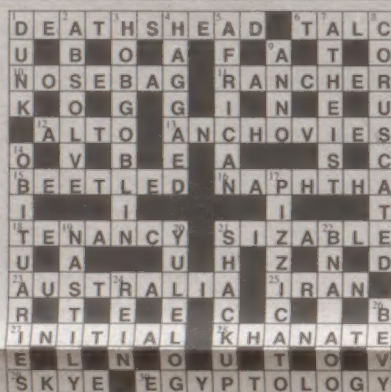
BY SUSAN ANDREWS



## DOWN

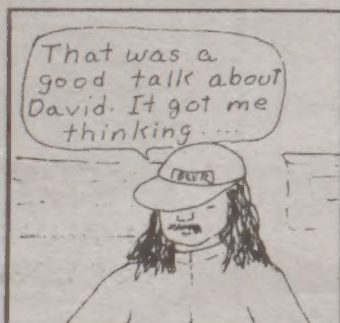
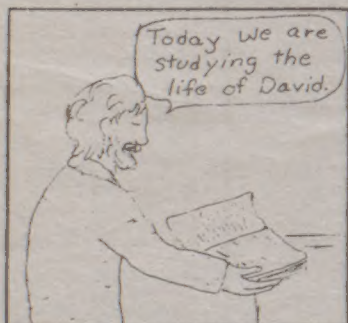
- 1 Bright red bird with a black mask (8)
- 2 Game show host (5)
- 3 White-water sport using dinghies (7)
- 5 To insert (5)
- 6 To shirk duties (7)
- 7 Led balloons? (8)
- 8 Giving medicine (6)
- 9 Most flaky! (8)
- 15 Very thin writing paper (5,4)
- 17 Resident of a Continental country (8)
- 18 Machine sets type a line at a time (8)
- 20 Infuriated (7)
- 21 Mechanical device (7)
- 22 Asinine (6)
- 24 Large member of crow family (5)
- 26 Board used with a planchette (5)

### Answers to May 1 Crossword #30

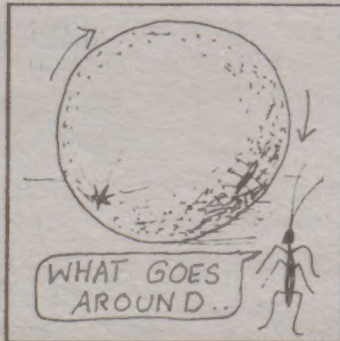


► Puzzle 31 answers will be published in the June 1 issue of *Our Voice*.

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# Inner city portraits

BY PIETER DE VOS JR



▲ Larry Mabeth

**F**or the past two months, I have taken my camera into Edmonton's inner city in an attempt to show the faces behind the terms "cutbacks" and "downsizing". In the process, I have discovered a community where suffering, humour and a sense of camaraderie co-exist. I have met individuals who have endured more hardships than I could imagine, yet still face the world with a wry wit.

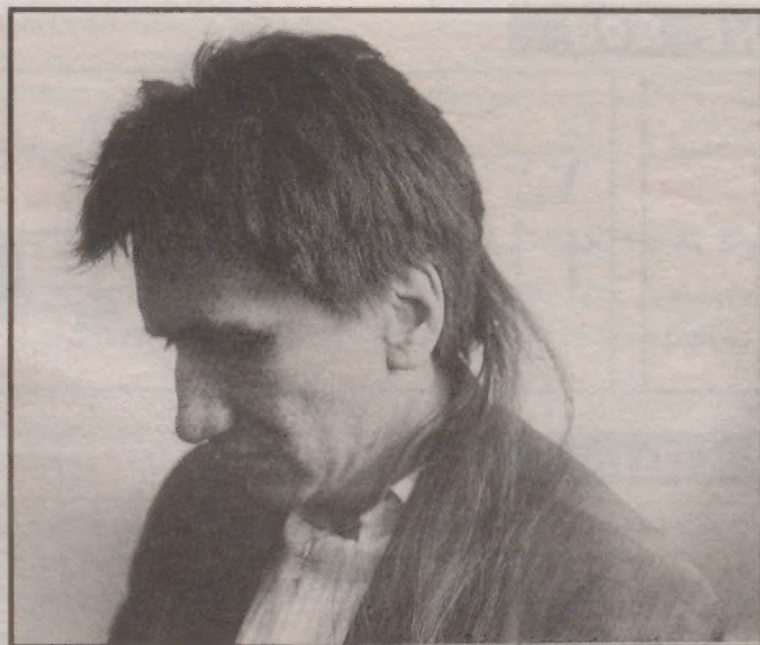
These images are from a larger exhibit entitled Faces: Portraits of the Poor and the Homeless that will be on June 1 as part of the Global Visions Festival in Edmonton. The exhibit is on in the Bus Barns in Old Strathcona at 10330-84th Ave. ♦



▲ Lana Dussault



▶ Lana Dussault



◀ Eric William Sask Ferguson Stoney Noskey

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